



Notice of a public meeting of

SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education)

To: *Such Christian denominations and other religious denominations as, in the opinion of the Authority, will approximately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area.*

Karen Vincent (Faith/Catholic)
Penny Coppin-Siddall (Faith/ The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints)
Imam Amar (Faith/Muslim)
Ben Rich (Vice Chair) (Faith/Jewish)
Mark Jones (Faith/Buddhist)
Fleur Kennedy (Faith/Bahai'i)
Susan Guiver (Faith/Humanist)
Dee Boyle (Faith/Unitarian, Buddhist, Pagan)
Tony Lawton (Faith/Catholic)
Avtar Matharu (Faith/Sikh)

Group B

A group of persons representing The Church of England.
Sue Bland (CoE)
Joseph Everdell (CoE)

Group C

A group of persons to represent such associations representing teachers as, in the opinion of the authority, ought to be represented, having regard to the circumstances of the area.
Taco Michiels (Joseph Rowntree School)

Group D

A group of persons representing the City of York Council. In this case of Elected Members appointment to this group should ensure political balance and state which political group they represent. As an alternative, the

Council may appoint representatives such as a governors association.

Cllr Robert Webb (Chair) (City of York Council)

Cllr Emilie Knight (City of York Council)

Cllr Martin Rowley BEM (City of York Council)

Cllr Sarah Wilson (City of York Council)

LA Officer

Maxine Squire (Assistant Director Education and Skills,
City of York Council)

Date: Tuesday, 13 October 2026

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: West Offices

AGENDA

- 1. Co-option of teacher from Group A to Group C**
To co-opt a teacher from Group A to Group C for the meeting.
- 2. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest** (Pages 5 - 6)
To receive and note apologies for absence.

At this point in the meeting, Members are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest or other registerable interest they might have in respect of business on this agenda, if they have not already done so in advance on the Register of Interests. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest.

An interest must also be disclosed in the meeting when it becomes apparent to the member during the meeting.

[Please see attached sheet for further guidance for Members]

- 3. Minutes and matters arising from the minutes** (Pages 7 - 10)
To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2026 and matters arising from that meeting.

- 4. Update from York Interfaith Group**
To receive an update from York Interfaith Group.
- 5. Resetting Members Understanding of SACRE**
To focus on resetting members understanding of SACRE and sharing the annual workplan to gain commitment.
- 6. Forward Plan** (Pages 11 - 16)
To consider the SACRE Forward Plan for the academic year 2026-27.
- 7. School Visits**
There will be SACRE visits to Huntington School in November 2026 and Yearsley Grove Primary School in February 2027.
- 8. Formation of SACRE Sub-Group**
To consider the forming of a sub-group to consider submitting an application to the Westfield/NASACRE Developing Diversity Awards. Theme for 2027-29 is Community, Unity and Diversity.
- 9. NASACRE News Issue 4**
This can be viewed at <https://nasacre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/NASACRE-news-4-July-2026-updated.pdf>
- 10. Correspondence on complaints/determinations**
A verbal update will be given on complaints received and the determinations in respect of those complaints.
- 11. Any Other Business**
- 12. Future meeting dates**
December meeting date tbc
25 January 2027 at 6pm at West Offices
9 March 2027 at 6pm at West Offices

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Declarations of Interest – guidance for Members

- (1) Members must consider their interests, and act according to the following:

Type of Interest	You must
Disclosable Pecuniary Interests	Disclose the interest, not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.
Other Registrable Interests (Directly Related) OR Non-Registrable Interests (Directly Related)	Disclose the interest; speak on the item <u>only if</u> the public are also allowed to speak, but otherwise not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.
Other Registrable Interests (Affects) OR Non-Registrable Interests (Affects)	Disclose the interest; remain in the meeting, participate and vote <u>unless</u> the matter affects the financial interest or well-being: (a) to a greater extent than it affects the financial interest or well-being of a majority of inhabitants of the affected ward; and (b) a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest. In which case, speak on the item <u>only if</u> the public are also allowed to speak, but otherwise do not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.

- (2) Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to the Member concerned or their spouse/partner.
- (3) Members in arrears of Council Tax by more than two months must not vote in decisions on, or which might affect, budget calculations,

and must disclose at the meeting that this restriction applies to them. A failure to comply with these requirements is a criminal offence under section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

City of York Council

Committee Minutes

Meeting	SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education)
Date	16 June 2026
Present	<u>Group A</u> Karen Vincent (Faith/Catholic) Penny Coppin-Siddall (Faith/ The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints) Imam Amar (Faith/Muslim) Mark Jones (Faith/Buddhist) Fleur Kennedy (Faith/Bahai'i) Susan Guiver (Faith/Humanist) Dee Boyle (Faith/Unitarian, Buddhist, Pagan) Professor Avtar Matharu (Faith/Sikh) <u>Group B</u> Sue Bland (CoE) <u>Group C</u> Taco Michiels (Joseph Rowntree School) <u>Group D</u> Cllr Sarah Wilson (City of York Council)
In Attendance	Maxine Squire (Assistant Director Education and Skills, City of York Council) Stephen Pett (RE today)
Apologies	Councillors Webb, Knight and Rowley, Ben Rich Rich, Knight and Josphe Everdell

Appointment of Chair for the meeting

Resolved: That the meeting be chaired by Cllr Wilson.

1. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest (6:21pm)

Apologies for absence were received and noted for Cllr Webb (Chair), Ben Rich (Vice-Chair), Cllr Knight, Cllr Rowley and Joseph Everdell. Members were asked to declare at this point in the meeting any disclosable pecuniary interest or other registerable interest they might have in respect of business on the agenda, if they had not already done so in advance on the Register of Interests. There were none.

2. Minutes and matters arising from the minutes (6:21pm)

Resolved:

- i. That the minutes of the SACRE meetings held on 14 October 2025 and 10 March 2026 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.
- ii. That the minutes of the SACRE meeting held on 30 April 2026 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record subject to the addition of apologies from Dee Boyle.

Matters arising: It was noted that the Imam had resigned and this would need amending in the Annual Report.

[Maxine Squire joined the meeting at 6.22pm]

3. Review of the Agreed Syllabus (6:23pm)

Maxine reported that she had started to look at the Agreed Syllabus particularly in light of the RE curriculum and assessment review. She reminded Members that the licence for the Agreed Syllabus had been extended by a year.

Stephen Pett (RE Today) was then invited to join the meeting. Stephen Pett noted that there was a different approach to discussions previously as there hadn't been the RE curriculum review which changed the situation. He explained that there was a Task and Finish Group looking at the curriculum for which there had been various consultations. He noted RE would have a curriculum based on four areas of study and he detailed the programmes of study for them. He added that it was not known what the DfE would do and there was a meeting about it that week. He explained that the areas of study would be put out for consultation and that the draft National Curriculum was due in February 2027 and would be delivered from September 2028.

Stephen Pett noted that in terms of York SACRE developing its Agreed Syllabus, it was hard to know what to do and that regarding a draft new syllabus, SACRE could take the headlines from the programmes of study. He added that it would be useful to find out what teachers found useful in the curriculum syllabus.

Maxine Squire noted she was being contacted by schools and even if RE was to go into the National Curriculum, SACREs would have a role in local

content. She added that it would be useful to start a dialogue with teachers and she undertook to speak with a group of primary and secondary teachers to see what they would like to retain and what they found useful.

4. Future school visits (6:44pm)

Maxine Squire reported that there would be a future SACRE visit to Huntington School and she undertook to email the date to Members.

5. Funding teaching engagement (6:48pm)

Maxine Squire asked Members if some SACRE budget could be used to fund teacher visits. She noted that there were expressions of interest from teachers every half term. It was suggested that SACRE funding could be released to get a group of teachers together to see what they would find useful. It was noted that there was £3000 in the SACRE annual budget. Maxine Squire undertook to scope out a SACRE proposal for the July meeting.

6. SACRE meeting with young people (6:50pm)

It was agreed that the Democracy Officer would check with Penny Coppin-Siddall to see if the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints would be available as a venue for the meeting with young people.

7. Update from Interfaith (6:53pm)

Dee Boyle gave an update on the York Interfaith Group noting that their leaflet had been emailed out. She explained that they had been asked to host a regional consultation day on the future of Interfaith which had been hosted by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. She added that there would be feedback following the consultation. She noted that Imam Ammar had resigned and there was a review of the York Interfaith Group.

8. NASACRE News Issue 3 (6:56pm)

Members noted the content of NASACRE News Issue 3.

9. Correspondence on complaints/determinations (6:57pm)

It was noted that no complaints had been received, and no determinations submitted. It was noted that all schools had been emailed to remind them of their duties in relation to RE and the need to submit determinations to SACRE.

10. Any Other Business (6:57pm)

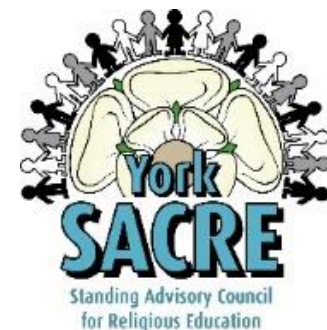
Maxine Squire noted that there was a problem with SACRE meeting quoracy nationally. She suggested that SACRE could look at a mix of virtual meetings with two face to face meetings per year and as Task and Finish meetings and virtual meetings being business meetings. She reported that she was representing SACRE on the Holocaust Memorial Day group. Susan Guiver noted she was unable to attend the next meeting and would email her ideas to the Chair and Maxine Squire. Maxine Squire was asked and confirmed that the Agreed Syllabus licence had been extended two years to 2028. A Member expressed concern about RE being left out of the National Curriculum and Maxine Squire noted that there was strong RE parliamentary support of SACRES.

11. Future meeting dates (6:59pm)

14 July 2026 at 6pm at West Offices.

, Chair

[The meeting started at 6.00 pm and finished at 7.00 pm].



YORK SACRE: ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2026-2027

The York SACRE annual workplan is shaped around the five key functions of SACRES contained in the NASACRE Self-Evaluation Toolkit. These are:

1. To improve the management of SACRE and build the partnership between SACRE and other Key Stakeholders
2. Promoting improvement in the standards, quality of teaching and provision in RE
3. Evaluating the effectiveness of the Locally Agreed Syllabus
4. Promoting improvement in the provision and quality of collective worship
5. Contributing to cohesion across the community and the promotion of social and racial harmony

The annual workplan has been developed to ensure that SACRE meetings are purposeful and to ensure that members have a forward plan of activity to raise the profile of York SACRE and support improved quoracy at meetings.

During the year there will be an opportunity for SACRE members to join school visits and it is proposed that SACRE form a sub-group to consider making an application for a Westhill/NASACRE Developing Diversity award to fund a partnership project focused on celebrating community, unity and diversity.

Objective: Contributing to cohesion across the community and promotion of social and racial harmony				
Intended Impact: The work of SACRE is more visible in the City of York				
Action	Cost	People involved	Timescale	Details
Continue to build better links with faith groups in the city including with Interfaith York	N/A	All SACRE members	On-going throughout 2026-27	SACRE to continue to review membership and also ensure that faith groups are aware of the purpose of SACRE. Chair of SACRE to write a letter of introduction to all faith groups in York.
Continued commitments to maintain a wide range of members on SACRE	N/A	Chair of SACRE SACRE Clerk	On-going throughout 2026-27	SACRE to continue to review membership and also ensure that faith groups are aware of the purpose of SACRE. Chair of SACRE to write a letter of introduction to all faith groups in York.
Arrange an annual opportunity for SACRE members to meet children and young people	TBC – costs of refreshments	LA adviser to SACRE	Spring term SACRE meeting 2027	Host a voice event for young people in partnership with the York Youth Council.
SACRE to form a sub-group to consider submitting an application to the Westfield/NASACRE Developing Diversity Awards. Theme for 2027-29 is Community, Unity and Diversity		All SACRE members	Discuss at first SACRE meeting of 2026. Applications have to be made by 5pm on 28 th February 2027	The purpose of an Award is to enable a SACRE or a group of SACREs to develop and run an innovative project that it would not normally be able to finance. The idea is that the projects will foster collaboration between SACREs and local schools, strengthening the provision and

				impact of RE and Collective Worship. There may be connections created between schools and local communities as part of the project. The theme for the last round was Developing Diversity, but with a growing focus on cohesion, the theme for 2027-29 will be Community, Unity and Diversity. The awards encourage SACREs to think about how RE and Collective Worship are preparing pupils and students for life and work in multi-religious and multi-secular Britain.
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Objective: Promoting improvement in standards, quality of teaching and provision in RE Evaluating the effectiveness of the Locally Agreed Syllabus				
Intended Impact: RE teachers have access to CPD which supports them to deliver the locally agreed syllabus and provides them with insights in to best practice in RE				
Action	Cost	Lead	Timescale	Details
Recruit more teachers/educators to join committee C through a focused SACRE recruitment campaign in September 2026	TBC	LA adviser to SACRE	September – October 2026	Recruiting more teachers/educators to SACRE will help to ensure that SACRE has more direct information about teaching, quality and provision. It will also support committee C quoracy.
Develop and publicise online network meetings for RE	N/a	LA adviser to SACRE with	October 2026	Network meeting will be termly and in 2026-27 will focus on:

teachers to provide peer support with the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus		support from members of Committee C		- Primary/secondary transition - Sharing best practice in SEND
Implement the termly SACRE visits to schools: November – Huntington Secondary February – Yearley Grove Primary July – Copmanthorpe Primary	Consider funding release for teacher members of SACRE	LA adviser to SACRE	July 2027	Visits allow SACRE members to track the use of the Agreed Syllabus, understand the teaching of R.E. in schools and gain information from teacher and children and young people's voice. The visit raise the profile of SACRE with York schools.
SACRE to consider building a resources/artefacts library to support R.E. teaching and to support collective worship	£500	All SACRE members	TBC	This could be hosted by Explore or by a lead school.

Objective: Improve the management of SACRE and build the partnership between SACRE and other Key Stakeholders				
Intended Impact: - York SACRE meetings are quorate throughout 2026-27. - The visibility of York SACRE has improved – with schools, children and young, community and faith groups and educators - SACRE members have an annual programme of activity which they support.				
Action	Cost	People Involved	Timescale	Details
The SACRE handbook is issued to all members in September	N/A	SACRE Members	October 2026	The first meeting of 2026 will focus on resetting members understanding of SACRE and

2026 so that members are clear about their role and commitment				sharing the annual workplan to gain commitment.
A forward plan for 2026/27 SACRE meetings has been produced and shared with SACRE members	N/A	Chair of SACRE LA Adviser to SACRE SACRE Clerk	September 2026	The forward plan is shared with SACRE members in advance of the first meeting. This provides SACRE members with an overview of the year and areas for them to support between meetings.
The SACRE webpages have been reviewed and updated	N/A	LA adviser to SACRE SACRE Clerk	September 2026	The LA adviser has reviewed and requested updates from web services in advance of the first SACRE meeting of academic year 2026/27. This will include essential information and contacts
SACRE to produce a termly newsletter for schools	TBC	Members	December 2026, March 2027, July 2027	Informs schools and other stakeholders about the work of SACRE

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